SF Railyards Working Group (RWG)
We acknowledge that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula.
Meeting Purpose

1. Provide updates on PBC Caltrain efforts (informational, 10 min)
2. Gather group input on Neighborhood Mapping + Potential Opportunities (explorative, 20 min)
3. Provide overview of Planning Context “Dashboard” (informational, 5-7 min)
# Agenda

## Opening  
10 min  
Welcome and settling-in  
Check-in: agenda and updates:  
- Community updates  
- Related projects and efforts

## Content  
40 min  
1 Preliminary Business Case Caltrain efforts: update (10 min)  
*Informational item, clarifying questions*

2 Neighborhood Mapping + Potential Public Realm Opportunities (20 min)  
*Presentation + group discussion*

3 Context “dashboard” overview (5–7 min)  
*Informational item, asynchronous review*

## Closing  
10 min  
Group action items & activities  
Project team next steps
Community Updates

(RWG)
Community Feedback

- What have you heard since we last met?
Neighborhood projects / efforts

• SF Active Communities Plan (SFMTA) - in progress, draft network includes 5th Street bridge
• 101/280 Express Lanes and Bus Project (SFCTA) - in progress
• Mission Bay School Access Plan (SFCTA) - starting
• 900 7th Street (Amazon, former Recology site) - Applications submitted and under review. Requires Conditional Use Authorization and Transportation Demand Management Plan.
• 655 4th Street (The Creamery) Application at commission for approval 12/14 – 1,100 dwelling units, 10K ground floor retail, Plaza
Preliminary Business Case Update

(Caltrain – DJ)
Agenda

- Overview
- Operating Requirements at SF Railyards
SF Railyards – Caltrain’s Operating Requirements
### Core Functions in the North End

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passenger Facilities</th>
<th>Customer Experience</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Space to Store Trains</td>
<td>Space to Service Trains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space to Turn Trains</td>
<td>Space to Start Trains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crew Facilities &amp; Offices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Existing Conditions (All Above Ground)

**Infrastructure:**
- Storage and maintenance on site
- Station at 4th Street
On-site Functions

- Headhouse
- Station Platforms
- Comms Office and Service Vehicle Parking
- Storage, etc.
- Caltrain PTC Equipment Room and Offices
- Caltrain Bike Station
- Bus Stops
- Townsend St
- King St
- Caltrain Bike Station
- Wayside Comm Equipment Room

Legend:
- Blue: Revenue Track
- Red: Yard Track (Storage, etc.)
The Adopted Service Vision

Derived from Caltrain’s Business Plan

“Caltrain’s Long Range Service Vision directs the railroad to plan for substantially expanded rail service that, by 2040, will address the local and regional mobility needs of the corridor while supporting local economic development activities.”

TODAY’S SERVICE LEVEL: 4 CALTRAIN TRAINS

SERVICE VISION INVESTMENT

8 CALTRAIN TRAINS

ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT

4 HIGH SPEED RAIL TRAINS

4 TRAIN SLOTS FOR EXPANDED SERVICE OR REGIONAL CONNECTIONS
Caltrain’s Policy Priorities for the SF Railyards

1. Meet the Caltrain Adopted Service Vision – Adopted by the Caltrain Board
2. Maximize economic development opportunity
3. Support advancement of existing/planned projects: Electrification, Downtown Extension (DTX), CA High Speed Rail (HSR) *(construction sequencing considerations)*
4. Maintain station point-of-arrival at/or near 4th Street
5. Ensure infrastructure supports Caltrain’s current and future rail operations and maintenance needs
6. Provide exceptional customer service and passenger experience
Competing Space Needs

- Potential Future Development (Above Ground)
- 4th and Townsend Station
- 4KY Laydown Area
- Prologis Parcel
- Caltrain Easement
- DTX Tracks
- DTX Tunnel
Overview of SF Rail Projects
Alternatives Development Process

All concepts must:

Meet Caltrain’s operational needs + Enable the potential for feasible mixed-use development
Questions and Discussion
Neighborhood Mapping + Potential Public Realm Opportunities

(Hugo Errazuriz, AECOM)
Progress Summary

Where we are

• Mapping of existing conditions within and around the study area is completed, including previously planned and proposed activities

• Group site tour #1 (*Thank you everyone for participating and considering!*)

• Gathered input from both mapping and tour and started to identify preliminary areas for improvement and potential solutions
Site Tour
Observations:

- Existing and planned open space concentrates mostly in Mission Bay
- Lack of open space within the study area, but key areas of open space adjacent to it
- Lack of clear connections to/from adjacent open spaces
Observations:

- Limited active ground floor frontage in the study area, except areas between 3rd and 4th St.
- Even Mission Bay development along King St has very limited active ground floor use.
- Potential to connect/strengthen isolated pockets of activity within the study area.
Connections
Pedestrian Network

Observations:

- Disconnected pedestrian path caused by current railyards and Hwy 280 ramps
- Poor and confusing sidewalk conditions along Townsend St, with dangerous intersection at 5th and Townsend
- Unpleasant/unclear connections at 5th and King St, and 7th and Mission Bay Blvd.
- Disconnected path at Mission Creek
- Lack of midblock crossing along blocks
Connections
Road Network

Observations:

• Disconnected roads caused by current railyards and Hwy 280
• Confusing intersections at King and 5th, Mission Bay Blvd and 7th
• Dangerous intersection at 5th and Townsend
Resilience
Sea Level Rise

Observations:

- Low areas concentrate in Mission Bay and current railyards site & Townsend St.
- Comprehensive SLR inundation and climate solutions need to be looked at both larger and local scales

2140 Inundation Level in Feet Under a 66-inch Sea Level Rise Scenario +100 years Storm Event: Total Water Level of 108 Inches

Sea Level Rise Adaptation | SF Planning
https://sfplanning.org/sea-level-rise-action-plan#vulnerability-zone
Site Constraints

- I-280 overpass and structure (footings)
- Downtown Extension (DTX) Tunnel
- DTX Station 4th/5th and Townsend
- At-grade rails (during phase 1)
- Start of DTX U-Wall tunnel
- National/CA Register
- Landmark / Significant Buildings
- Pennsylvania Ave Extension (PAX) currently under study
- Sewer Pipe & Mission Creek pump station
- I-280 off-ramps landing on King St
- I-280 overpass and structure (footings)
Existing Conditions

- 7th St: Lower context buildings
- 5th St: Major public open space & gateway towers
- 4th St: Urban corridor supported by Caltrain 4th St station
- Mission Bay School under construction
- 1450 Owens St under construction
Planned Activities

- Bluxome St linear park & midblock connections
- Completed Mission Bay open space network
- 5th St: Green connector across Mission Creek for cyclists & pedestrians
- Central SoMa Key Sites
Potential Opportunity Areas
Study Area Key Cross Connections

Density opportunity sites along Townsend

4th St: Landmark Tower & Transit Plaza

USPS Opportunity site

Density opportunity sites along Townsend

Programmed open space underneath 280 & along 7th St, allowing pedestrian connection across 280
Potential Opportunity Areas
Study Area Key Connections

Potential gateway & public realm connection along 5th St (Railyards site Phase 2)
Potential Opportunity Areas
Study Area Key Connections

Potential elevated connection between Central SOMA and Mission Bay along 6th St.
Potential Opportunity Areas
Study Area Key Connections

Potential extension of Berry St and public open space along & over future rail lines (depending on tunneling options)
Potential Opportunity Areas
Study Area Key Street Character

Midblock connections & active edge along Townsend
Potential Opportunity Areas
Water Sensitive Public Realm

Existing park and water management facility
Existing park and dry creek
Existing park and water management facility

Three layers for Sea Level Rise Adaptation (focus on inner layer)
Potential Opportunity Areas
Water Sensitive Public Realm


Rain garden (small park) Permeable Paving Streetscape Design

Permeable Paving Streetscape Design
Open Discussion

- Are these the right findings that could help inform a comprehensive neighborhood plan?
- What is missing? What has not been considered?
- Are there any key areas or connections that you would like to see incorporated here?
- Are there any cases or benchmarks from which to draw lessons learned to be applied here?
Context “Dashboard” Update

(Erika Uribe, incommon)
Integration of group input

Public Participation Framework

Updates

• Project scope clarification
• Incorporated comments (see track changes)

Future updates

• Schedule
Context “dashboard"

What is it?

• Interpreting RWG request to develop an “executive summary of executive summaries” of previous neighborhood planning efforts.

• A tool to review previous planning policy documents and community input in relation to/ in the context of new City policy (i.e., EJ Framework), and RWG emerging themes.
Context dashboard

RWG emerging themes
- Balance economic viability, operational needs, and community benefits
- Urban vitality – open space & connectivity
- Housing and equity
- Resilience, sea level rise, stormwater management & flooding
- Learning from related efforts and community input

Neighborhood Plan
- Plan goals or recommendations
  - Showplace Square Open Space Plan 2021 update
    - Maximize access to open space and waterfront by planning connections to the waterfront and new parks where rail infrastructure may be undergrounded in the future.

EJ Framework priorities
- Healthy and Resilient Environments
- Physical Activity and Healthy Public Facilities
- Healthy Food Access
- Safe, Healthy, and Affordable Homes
- Equitable and Green Jobs
- Empowered Neighborhoods

See link here: Context dashboard
About the context dashboard

This dashboard responds to a Railyards Working Group request to develop an "executive summary of executive summaries" of previous neighborhood planning efforts. It is a tool to review planning policy documents and community input in relation to the context of new City policy (i.e., EJ Framework), and RWG emerging themes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community plans and map identifying corresponding neighborhoods or communities.</th>
<th>Analysis of Community Plans. Each line represents an objective or measure extract from a specific plan, and is matched to themes that emerged from the RWG meetings. Additionally, Environmental Justice priorities are identified that correspond with that measure or objective.</th>
<th>Brief description of neighborhood plans, including links and details on analysis.</th>
<th>Themes that have emerged from the Railyards Working Group meetings.</th>
<th>Priorities from the Environmental Justice Framework created to guide city policy objectives. EJ policies are required by the State, and have been integrated through the General Plan. See link below for further information.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Context dashboard

RWG Emerging Themes

1. Balance economic viability, operational needs, and community benefits

2. Urban Vitality - Community services

2. Urban Vitality - Ground floor activation + use

2. Urban Vitality - Open space + Streets

2. Urban Vitality - Connectivity

2. Urban Vitality - Arts & Culture

3. Housing and equity

4. Resilience, sea level rise, stormwater management & flooding

Correlation TBD

Created with Datawrapper
Guiding questions for asynchronous review

- *Is this level of detail helpful?*
- *Are there other policy or community context efforts that should be included?*
- *We will continue to refine the dashboard for completeness and consistency, do you have any suggestions on improvements?*

Please feel welcome to comment directly on the spreadsheet shared or e-mail.
Next Steps

(All)
Next Steps

• RWG Coordinators support.
• RWG opportunities to meet in person.
• RWG should review the Context Dashboard
  • Documents are posted to the collaboration space
  • Please review and comment
• 2024 Q1 Project team
  • Follow up with the CAC’s
  • Public Realm Strategies Toolkit
  • Begin to identify and study capacity of proximate opportunity sites
  • Coordination with The Portal (DTX), PAX and the 6th Street Sewer Project
  • Communicating Complexity of the Site and Infrastructure
Thank You

sfplanning.org/railyards

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